Unpaid Work and the MDGs: Issues and Recommendations

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October 2, 2005

Outline of the Presentation

- A review of unpaid Work in the Millennium Project Task Force Reports, national MDG reports, and national Needs Assessments

    - Diagnosis
    - Indicators for monitoring/tracking
    - Interventions/recommendations

- Recommendations for integrating unpaid work in national policy processes

Task Force 3 Framework of Gender Equality and Empowerment

- The *capabilities* domain refers to basic human abilities as measured through education, health and nutrition.

- The access to resources and **opportunities** domain refers primarily to access to economic assets (such as land, property or infrastructure) and resources (such as income and employment) as well as political opportunity.

- The **security** domain is defined to mean reduced vulnerability to violence and conflict.

TF3: Seven Strategic Priorities

- Strengthen opportunities for postprimary education for girls while simultaneously meeting commitments to universal primary education.

- Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- Invest in infrastructure to reduce women's and girls' time burdens.

- Guarantee women's and girls' property and inheritance rights.

- Eliminate gender inequality in employment

- Increase women's share of seats in national parliaments and local government bodies.

- Combat violence against girls and women.

Task Force 3 Recommended Indicators

Infrastructure

- Hours per day (or year) women and men spend fetching water and collecting fuel.

Employment

- Share of women in employment, both wage and self employment, by type.
- Gender gaps in earnings in wage and self employment by type.

Task Force 3 Recommended Interventions

- ## Infrastructure

  - Improve women's participation in planning and implementation of infrastructure projects - Mali

  - Increase access and affordability of alternative energy, transportation services for women (kerosene, LPG, improved cook stoves (India))

- ## Employment

  - Interventions to reduce barriers to entry and exit (e.g., support for care services)

  - Interventions to improve the nature and conditions of employment (e.g., social protection)

Unpaid Work in
other Task Force Reports

Water/Sanitation

- Diagnosis emphasizes time, energy,and health consequences of inadequate water and sanitation services and recognizes importance of women's unpaid work

- Indicator of improved water supply and sanitation should include distance between a household and its water source, and existence of sex separated sanitation facilities

- Technology, service, and financing recommendations are gender-sensitive

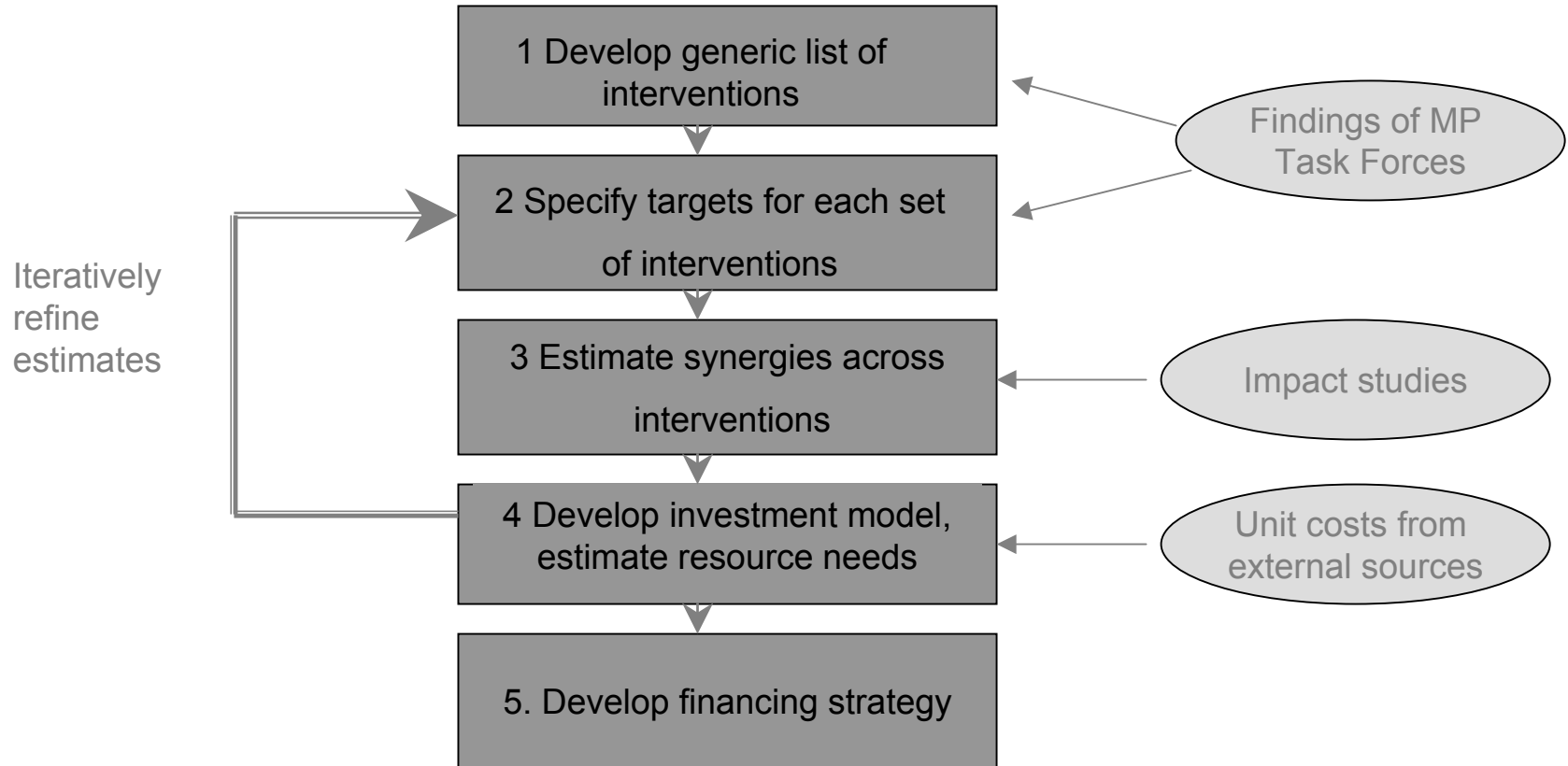# Unpaid Work in
other Task Force Reports

HIV/AIDS

- Diagnosis recognizes gender inequality as a barrier to prevention and lack of support for unpaid work in treatment and care services.

- TF makes no recommendation for an indicator to track unpaid work for HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

- Recommendations include expanding community-based home-care programs and linking them to clinical care programs, expanding support systems for families caring for orphans and vulnerable children.

Unpaid Work in
Country MDG Reports

Observations from UNDP 2005. A Gender Review of National MDG Reports:

- Uneven recognition of unpaid work in country reports and its relevance to different goals

- Few countries use time use data for monitoring and tracking but there are notable exceptions

- Hard to tell from the review whether country MDG reports make recommendations for reducing time burdens and supporting unpaid workers

Unpaid Work and MDG Needs Assessments

Unpaid Work and MDG Needs Assessments, cont.

- Of the assessments carried out to date, two include unpaid work in the diagnostics (India refers to 1998-1999 time use survey and Ethiopia cites data from UNICEF report on rural women's work burdens). Yet, time use data not fully exploited – or used to influence choice of interventions and indicators countries will use for tracking progress.

- An adequate baseline would include information on full dimensions of poverty and at sufficient level of disaggregation – wherever time use data are available they should be used!

- Estimating synergies across sectors is hard – but time use data could help resolve this problem.

Conclusions

- Limited data is a problem

- No consistent use even when data are available

- Lack of harmonization in use of data across multiple policy processes – PRSPs, MDG country reports, needs assessments

- The way info is tabulated is not satisfactory for policy

- Clearer definitions of "time poverty" are needed for MDGs

- Time use data can be useful for understanding the synergies across goals and important input into needs assessments.